Another year, another hurricane. As we strive to progress with research, education and extension programs here at the center, we find we are spending as much time re-building our facilities as we are pursuing quality research and extension programs.

Our story is an all too familiar one. UF/IFAS initial evaluation calculates over 12 million dollars loss of facilities including collapsed concrete walls, major damages to roofs, total building destruction and downsed greenhouses. At EREC, 12 greenhouses were destroyed and 55 of 60 buildings were damaged in some way. Some of these buildings were so badly damaged that they have been condemned. Our ability to receive help from FEMA is very slow. So far FEMA has reimbursed 4% of the 5.6 million UF requested in 2004 and no reimbursements have been made for 2005.

The impact on our researchers and their experiments is really high. Many of our valued clientele suffered even greater losses. Let’s move into 2006 with a real spirit of commitment to wards restoring the important economic contributions of EREC research and extension education in the United States located on subtropical organic soils.

The Policy Corner
By Jose Alvarez

Economic Contribution of EREC Research
In October 2001, the Food and Resource Economics Department at UF/IFAS published the results of a study conducted by Edward A. Evans, Max R. Langham and Leo C. Potopulos titled Historic Analysis of the Economic Contribution of the Everglades Research and Education Center (EREC).

Previous issues of this Newsletter have highlighted EREC’s general and specific contributions. The topic chosen for this issue is funding. Financial support to the Center comes from several sources: federal and state appropriations, state agencies, industry, and private institutions and individuals. The study shows that, during the period under consideration (1990-97), funding increased at only 1.7% per annum in constant dollars. The slow overall real annual growth rate reflects a slow down in state contributions. Although the share of state appropriations have been decreasing in the past, they provided the bulk of the Center’s research funds at the time this study was conducted. Excluding non-measurable benefits, the study estimated an average annual rate of return on investments of 16%. That rate of return more than justifies substantial increases in state appropriations.

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Dr. George Snyder, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, is continuing his lifelong work on soils. Dr. Snyder gave a presentation on interpreting soil tests to the Florida Sports Turf Managers Association meeting October 20, at Ft. Lauderdale. He also serves on a Department of Environmental Regulation committee to develop BMPs for golf courses, and is currently a Technical Consultant for the Milorganite Corporation. He has authored several articles that may be found in the Florida Turf Digest. Of all of his works, he is most proud of the fact that his son Richard will receive his PhD in Chemistry from Florida International University in December.

Dr. Gregg S. Nuessly gave a presentation on behalf of himself, Dr. Russell T. Nagata, and Amanda S. Carroll, biologist, at the VIIth International Symposium on Aphids, Perth, Australia, October 2-8, 2005. The presentation was on “Greenbug: Emerging Problem on Warm Season Turfgrasses.”

Dr. Nuessly was invited to give a presentation on “Sugarcane Pest Management Research in Florida, USA” at the Costa Rican Green harvest Sugarcane Summit, Liberia, Costa Rica, August 22-26, 2005. And, at the Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, December 15-18, 2005, Dr. Nuessly presented information about “Diamondback moth control in late season Chinese cabbage.”

Dr. Richard N. Raid won the Gold Medal Award in the Community Leader category from the Palm Beach County School District for his involvement with school gardens (Students SOAR). Award winners and all Business Partners were recognized at an Awards Breakfast held at the Kravitz Center on October 29th.

The Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce named Dr. Richard Raid as their Agri-Industrial Person of the Year for 2005. This award was presented at the annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet at the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center.

**Awards & Recognition**

**Dr. Richard N. Raid**

**Professional Development**

**Research**

Dr. James D. Snyder will be the guest speaker at the First Friday Seminar program on January 6. Jim is a noted author and historian and will be available for a book signing after his talk. Don’t miss this opportunity to hear him speak about “How Black Gold and Dogged Determination Made Palm Beach County an Agricultural Giant.” Copies of his book will be available for purchase.

**Events & Meetings**

**UF/IFAS is Providing Solutions for Your Life**

Dr. Ken Pernezny recently received $10,000 from the FMC Corporation to support their work on a developing problem of insecticide resistance in southern chinch bugs. These insects are the most important insect pest of St. Augustinegrass in Florida. Recent data show that the insects are developing resistance to several insecticides currently used to control them in Florida lawns and sod fields.

BMP Consultations began with growers in the S-5A basin this past year and are on schedule to finish the sub-basin by March 2006. The goal of the program is to cover the entire EAA basin within five years. For additional information on this project contact Dr. Tim Lang at 561-993-1547, his email is tlang@ifas.ufl.edu; or call Dr. Samira Daroub at 561-993-1593, email her at sdaroub@ifas.ufl.edu.

Dr. Richard Raid has received $8,200 in funding from the Florida IPM grants, to investigate Bean Bean Nodules caused by Tohocolo Streak Virus. Look for a Bean Grower’s Extension Seminar in October.

Penny Robinson’s research on bacterial leaf spot of lettuce (part of her MS’s thesis) has been accepted for publication in *Plant Disease*. Penny was a graduate student working with Dr. Ken Pernezny.

**Dr. Samira Daroub**

**Community Medals**

Dr. Richard N. Raid received an $11,000 grant from the Florida Tomato Committee to support his involvement with school gardens (Students SOAR). Award winners and all Business Partners were recognized at an Awards Breakfast held at the Kravitz Center on October 29th. Many Barn Owl boxes couldn’t handle the winds of Wilma and toppled or were destroyed, leaving owls homeless.

**Blue roofs over the cane fields.**

**Hurricane Wilma damage to sugarcane in the EAA included (A) knocking down the crop (‘lodging’) (B) stripping leaves, and (C) breaking tops**

**Dr. Tim Lang recovering water monitoring shed in canal at BMP demo farm on-station**

**Jalapeño peppers on the coast suffer from hurricane winds**

**Mahogany tree uprooted**

**Greenhouses and nursery areas received extensive damage**

**Pavilion damaged at EREC**

**Sem-Chi Rice Mill damaged**

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**The Annual Spring Meeting for the Lettuce Advisory Committee will be held on March 4. For additional information you may contact Dr. Richard Raid by phone at 561-993-1544, or email him at RNR@ifas.ufl.edu.**

**You may call Dr. Ken Pernezny at 561-993-1599 for additional information.**

**The twelfth hurricane of the 2005 season, Wilma, entered the record books in October as having the lowest central pressure of any Atlantic hurricane at 882 mb, beating Hurricane Gilbert in 1988 with 888 mb. At one stage a category 5 storm, Wilma produced well over 60 inches of rain as it moved across the Yucatan Peninsula, then turned northeastward and eventually made landfall in Florida on Monday, October 24, as a category 3 storm. Maximum wind gusts recorded by the SFWMD weather station located at the EREC measured 117 MPH with maximum sustained winds of 77 MPH. Minimum barometric pressure recorded at the site was 953.6 mb.**

**You may call Dr. Ken Pernezny at 561-993-1599 for additional information.**

**Dr. Russell Nagata and Dr. Ken Pernezny received an $11,000 grant from the Florida Tomato Committee to investigate resistance to copper in tomato bacterial pathogens. An additional grant of $2,500 from the Florida IPM group, was also received by Drs. Pernezny and Nagata along with Darrin Parmenter, Gene McAvoy, and Kent Cushman, to evaluate commercial pepper cultivars for resistance to bacterial spot and horticultural characteristics.**

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**Seminars are free to the public, and begin at 10:45 a.m. We hope you will join us for this and future seminars. A schedule of the seminars is available on our website at: http://erec.ifas.ufl.edu**

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